

From: Keith Bagwell [REDACTED]
Date: May 25, 2017 at 11:56:50 AM PDT
To: Aycock.Mary@epa.gov
Subject: Comments

Ms. Aycock,

Attached are comments of the Sierra Club Rincon Group, based in Tucson and covering much of southern Arizona, on the EPA's proposal for cleaning contaminated ground water in the Tucson International Airport Area Superfund Site.

Thank you,
Keith Bagwell
Conservation Chair
Sierra Club Rincon Group .

May 25, 2017

Mary Aycock
EPA, Region 9
Mail Code SFD 8-1
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Ms. Aycock:

The Sierra Club Rincon Group strongly recommends that the Environmental Protection Agency adopt Alternative 6 or Alternative 5 for cleaning 1,4-dioxane and other toxic solvents from groundwater in the Tucson International Airport Area Superfund Site.

While these alternatives are the most expensive initially of the six the agency suggests for this Superfund site, they would clean up the contamination much more quickly than the other alternatives and thus are likely to save money in the long run.

The Sierra Club Rincon Group has more than 4,000 members in Tucson and Pima, Santa Cruz and Cochise counties. We are concerned about all aspects of our physical environment, including the disastrous contamination of ground water on Tucson's southside, where many thousands of people over the years have suffered or died prematurely as a result of their exposure to this toxic pollution.

Available information about the cleanup methods proposed in the EPA's six alternatives indicates that in-situ bioremediation and in-situ chemical oxidation would clean the contamination more swiftly than the preferred alternative, Existing Pump and Treat with UV Peroxide, which is likely to require additional decades of operation to complete the task.

In contrast, information about alternatives 5 and 6 indicate they could accomplish the contamination clean up in just a few years. And the literature states the EPA and other agencies and responsible parties are employing these two cleanup methods at numerous contamination sites, many of them Superfund sites, so they are viable and affordable.

The folks whose health is impacted have been exposed to this contaminated water via ingestion, bathing and the operation of evaporative coolers for many decades already. They deserve the swiftest relief available.

We implore the EPA to select Alternative 6 or Alternative 5 when it makes a final decision on how to proceed with cleaning this Superfund site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meg Weesner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Meg" being more prominent than the last name "Weesner".

Meg Weesner
Sierra Club Rincon Group Chair